



Community Involvement Plan
Jewett White Lead Company Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/jewettwhitelead

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's)

community involvement program is committed

to promoting communication between the public and the Agency.

Active public involvement and transparency are crucial to the success of any

public project. The success of environmental efforts depends on earning and

maintaining the trust of the public we serve.

EPA's community involvement activities at the

Jewett White Lead Company Superfund Site

are designed to inform the public of the nature of the environmental issues

associated with the site, involve and include the public in the decision-making

process that will affect them, and inform the public of the progress being made to

implement the cleanup.

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Section 1

Overview of the Community Involvement Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed this Community Involvement Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Jewett White Lead Company Superfund Site and EPA, and to encourage community involvement in the site activities. EPA will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This Community Involvement Plan addresses Jewett White Lead Company's relationship to the community and EPA. It provides a background of the community, presents EPA's community involvement program and provides a listing of resources available. EPA drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and site files. EPA's regional office based in New York City will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this plan.

Section 2

Site Background

2.1 Site History

The Site is located on the north shore of Staten Island in the Port Richmond area. It consists of an approximately one-acre parcel of land located at 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace, in the Borough of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York. It was formerly used by John Jewett & Sons White Lead Company to manufacture white lead during the period of 1839 to 1898. National Lead Industries purchased the business and subsequently operated at the location for several decades. A major fire destroyed the plant's main building and storage house in the 1920's. Between 1949 and 1990, various businesses operated at the location including Sedutto's Ice Cream Factory. By the late 1990's, there had been several fires at the site, which eventually led to the clearing of any remaining structures and debris in 2000.

EPA received a request in the summer of 2008 by then Councilman Michael McMahon to evaluate the Site for a possible Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) removal action. In July of that year EPA performed a site visit. The Site at that time was being used to store construction equipment and road millings from a local sewer project. In October 2008 the current property owner hired a contractor to collect soil samples from the property. Sampling results indicated high levels of lead in the surface soils and at depth. In December of the same year, EPA then went and collected samples from 16 test pits at the Site and off-site at four locations along the sidewalk and gutter line of Richmond Terrace to determine if lead contaminated soils had moved from the Site. In late February 2009, EPA received validated analytical results from the soil sampling where high levels of lead were found in the soils both at the subsurface and at depth.

2.2 Site Location/Description

The Site is located on the north shore of Staten Island in the Port Richmond area. The Site is bordered to the north and east by Richmond Terrace, to the south by an abandoned elevated railroad line, and to the west by Park Avenue. The Kill Van Kull is less than 0.25 miles from the Site. The area around the Site is a mix of light industrial, commercial and residential properties. Barge transport and shipyard facilities are situated to the north and east of the Site adjacent to the Kill Van Kull. A millwork facility and a dry cleaner are located on Park Avenue across the street from the Site. A residential neighborhood commences just south of the elevated railroad line and one block west on Port Richmond Avenue. The nearest residence is located approximately 100 feet south of the Site. Bus stops are present on both Richmond Terrace and Park Avenue.

2.3 Site Cleanup

Based upon the recommendations of the New York State Department of Health, EPA determined that an interim cleanup was required to prevent soils from leaving the property. At the request of EPA, the property owner took an action on April 6, 2009 to stop the off-site movement of soils and sediment due to runoff. The action consisted of the installation of a silt fence and hay bales; removal of lead-contaminated soils and sediments from sidewalks and curb lines; spreading grass seed and mulch on the property to hold soils in place. Air monitoring done during all on-site and off-site activities monitored for lead dust in the air. The results of the air sampling showed low levels of lead.

With upkeep of the grass and silt fencing, the temporary measures in place at the Site are protective of human health and the environment until a cleanup action is taken. EPA is evaluating options for cleanup at the Site.

Section 3 Community Background

3.1 Community Profile

Port Richmond is a neighborhood situated on the North Shore of Staten Island, one of the five boroughs of New York City. It is along the waterfront of the Kill Van Kull with the southern terminus of the Bayonne Bridge. Richmond Terrace, the main roadway running east-west along the Kill Van Kull has been active since the early 19th century. Many of Staten Island's first industries were established along what is now called Richmond Terrace. It was also an important transportation and industrial center of the island. It is presently a largely a blue collar residential area bypassed by the shift of development of the island.

Approximately 53.1% of the residents in Port Richmond are White, 21.21% African-American, 33.75% Hispanic or Latino, 3.60% Asian and 0.28% Native American.

The Housing consists primarily of older houses and apartments. The median household income in Port Richmond is \$43,118.

3.2 Key Community Concerns

As a result of various meetings in the area, the following questions were raised (Answers follow):

Who would finance the implementation of the response action?

EPA will finance the implementation of the response action that is ultimately selected.

Should the two bus stops adjacent to the site be temporarily relocated?

Based on data sampling collected, it is not necessary to relocate or close the bus stops.

Specific health effects attributable to the contaminants of concern should be identified. What health effects might result from living close to the contaminated soils?

The primary contaminant of concern is lead. The potential health effects associated with lead are usually developmental.

Have there been any studies to determine whether there is a relationship between the contamination at the site and health problems of some residents?

According to the New York State Department of Health, there have not been any specific health studies to examine a potential link between contaminated soils at the site and diseases in the area.

3.3 Summary of Communication Needs

Starting in April 2009 EPA had various meeting with key community members and community groups to discuss findings, site activities, lead risks and community involvement.

In June 2009, representatives from EPA, New York City Department of Health, ATSDR, New York City Parks department held a series of meetings with local officials, representatives from North Shore Waterfront Conservancy, Project Hospitality and Northfield LDC and the general public in Port Richmond to talk about EPA's involvement at the site, environmental lead hazards, off-site sampling, role of Superfund and next steps. A separate meeting was held for targeted residents that live closest to the site requesting access to their property to perform soil sampling and explaining what the sampling would entail.

At all meetings fact sheets and other materials were distributed explaining EPA's cleanup and testing methods.

Section 4

EPA's Community Involvement Program

EPA will implement the community involvement activities described below.

4.1 Keeping the community informed

EPA has designated a the Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) to provide a primary liaison between the community and EPA to ensure prompt, accurate and consistent responses and information dissemination about the site, to handle site inquiries and serve as the point of contact for community members. The CIC assigned to the Jewett White Lead site is:

Wanda Ayala
Community Involvement Coordinator
USEPA Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866
(212) 637-3676

Develop and maintain a mailing list (email and physical addresses) to facilitate the distribution of site related information to affected impacted parties. The list has been generated with information provided by sign-in sheets from different meetings.

Provide adequate and meaningful opportunities for community involvement to update the community on site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments.

Hold public meetings to update the community on site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments.

Make informal visits to the community to help keep community members informed about the site, while providing EPA with feedback activities and the community's opinions.

SUGGESTED LOCATION FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Northfield LDC Offices
160 Heberton Avenue
Staten Island, NY

Port Richmond High School
85 St. Josephs Avenue
Staten Island, NY

LIST OF CONTACTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

Senator Diane Savino
Congressman Michael E. McMahon
Councilmember Kenneth C. Mitchell
Nick Dmytryszyn, Boro President's office
Debi Rose/Joe Carroll, Community Board #1
Beryl Thurman, Northshore Waterfront Conservancy
Terry Troia, Project Hospitality
Kathleen Bielsa/Michele Sledge, Northfield LDC

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Dr. Nathan Graber

New York City Parks Department
Commissioner Thomas Paulo

EPA Regional Contacts
Kimberly Staiger, On-Scene Coordinator
Eric J. Wilson, Superfund Manager
Wanda Ayala, Community Involvement Coordinator
Mark Maddaloni, Toxicologist
Leah Graciano, ATSDR

(We can add maps, pictures web addresses, etc. at this point)